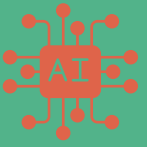# Community Equity Priority #5

Check for and remove any formulas and computer processes that may be biased based on race, ethnicity, or poverty. This will prevent inequities in health care, housing, policing, criminal justice, employment, social service and more.

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools should be reviewed to ensure bias or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, or poverty does not impact decisions about services, programs, and employment. City agencies must set AI governance standards that addresses these biases, with a focus on specific areas to prevent potential harm to communities harmed by racism and social injustice

> ❝
> **Community Voice**
> Check which AI programs may have less bias inherent in them. Some are better than others.
>
> 42 years old, Queens

Automated Employment Decision Tools

Local Law 144 of 2021 requires that all public and private hiring entities in NYC conduct a bias audit of the automated employment decision tool (AEDT) before use in hiring or promotion practices.

- Job applicants or employees must be notified about the use of AEDTs.

Limitations to Local Law 144

- ❌ No standardized auditing process. The hiring agency conducts their own auditing.

- ❌ No public centralized forum where agencies can submit and publish their audit reports.

- ❌ Hiring companies are not required to take action when bias is found after auditing.

In spite of Local Law 144, in 2024:

94% of NYC employers did not published bias audit reports

97% of NYC employers did not release transparency notices to job applicants

Citywide AI Governance

Local Law 35 of 2022 requires that all city agencies to annually report the algorithmic tools used to the NYC Office of Technology and Innovation (OTI).

46 total algorithmic tools used by city agencies in 2023

14 out of all city agencies used algorithmic tools in 2023

Limitation to Local Law 35

- ❌ Does not give OTI regulatory power to hold city agencies accountable to removing biases in algorithms.

NYC Artificial Intelligence Plan

In October 2023, OTI released its first AI Action Plan, outlining guidelines for responsible AI use by city agencies. However, However, the plan does not mandate that AI tools are evaluated for race, ethnicity, or poverty.
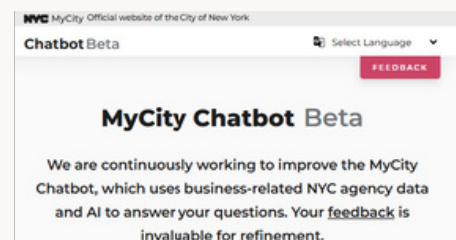
AI Steering Committee

In March 2024, the AI Steering Committee was created to support the implementation of the AI Action Plan.

- Chief Technology Officer
- **23** representatives from **16** agencies
- AI Advisory Network (experts from academic & private sector)

The MyCity Chatbot was launched in 2023 as a source for answering questions from small business owners. MyCity Chatbot has provided inaccurate and incomplete information on housing policies, worker protection rights, and business operations. OTI is continuously improving MyCity Chatbot using community feedback.

NYC MyCity Official website of the City of New York

Chatbot Beta

🌐 Select Language ⌄

FEEDBACK

MyCity Chatbot Beta

We are continuously working to improve the MyCity Chatbot, which uses business-related NYC agency data and AI to answer your questions. Your feedback is invaluable for refinement.

Community Equity Priority #5

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